protective work of the Farakka Barrage Project, both upstream and downstream; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Bank protection works in vulnerable reaches both upstream and downstream of the Farakka Barrage and also at Jangipur Barrage have been attended to as advised by the Technical Advisory Committee from time to time, to the extent they are required for safety and smooth operation of the structures of the Farakka Barrage Project. Normally, protection works from the left guide bundh of the Farakka Barrage upto Spur No. 7 on the upstream left bank of river Ganga, protection works in a 6 km. reach on the right bank of river Ganga downstream of Farakka Barrage and protection works of the right bank of Ganga in about 16 km. reach at Jangipur Barrage, come under this category.

Tobacco Wastes as an Effective Pesticide

2195. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco wastes are effective against pest as identified by the Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to commercially exploit this nicotine-based pesticide and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The effectiveness of nicotine based pesticides developed from tobacco waste has been demonstrated against soft-bodied insects like aphids, white-flies and leaf hoppers.

(c) and (d) A technology for processing of nicotine sulphate as pesticide using tobacco waste has been developed by the Central Tobacco Research Institute. It is proposed to establish a pilot plant for testing commercial viability of this method.

Joint Basin Authority for Cauvery River

2196. SHRI V. SHEENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to setup a joint Basin Authority for Cauvery river in order to enable the riparian States to discuss matters relating to optimum utilisation of Cauvery waters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone connection in Solapur District of Maharashtra

2197. SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Solapur District of Maharashtra, Category-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Waiting list